GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:349
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2000
FIRE IN RAJRAPPA AREA OF CCL
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a): whether the fire has broken out in the rejected coal stock worth nearly 50 crore in rupees Section-I of Rajrapha area of Central Coalfields Limited(CCL);

(b): if so, whether the fire had earlier broken out in Eraksen Yard Coal Stock near to the same place about ten years ago in the rejected coal stock;

(c): if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry to ascertain the causes of fire;

(d): if so, the details thereof; and

(e): the steps taken or proposed to be taken against the negligent officials in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a): It has been reported by Coal India Ltd., that spontaneous heating has started in reject coal stock −yard. Physical removal of top-most bench of the reject has started and adequate fire-fighting arrangement has been made. As to the value of Rs. 50 crores it can not be said because as per accounting practice of the company. The stock of washery rejects is not valued for the purpose of stock valuation.

(b): Yes, Sir. Fire had broken out in reject coal in Eraksen-yard during the year 1986.

(c) & (d): Technical committees were formed by CCL to look into the problem of fire in coal stocks and also for coal reject.

The first committee was formed on 19-6-1986 by the Director(Tech.). Division-II, which was chaired by the General Manager(Production). The committee gave suggestion with respect to despatch of coal, fire fighting for coal on spontaneous heating and proper gradation of coal.

The second committee was constituted by CGM(Production) which was headed by the then CGM(Production), late Shri A.N. Sinha and they have assessed probable loss of coal. The report of the enquniry was discussed by CIL Board(116th meeting held on 13-05-1991). The board was satisfied with the enquiry report which is re-produced below.

"Enquires in different cases revealed that in spite of best efforts, the fire in the stocks could not be prevented because these coals were susceptible to spontaneous heating on storage. As such, no action has been taken against any executive for loss of stock on this account."

(e): No action has been taken against any official in this case due to the explanation mentioned above.